Diversion of forest land for rehabilitation of displaced persons of Kalindi Hydel Project

2186. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has made a request for the diversion of forest land for the rehabilitation of displaced persons of Kalindi Hydel Project Stage II, measuring about 1300 acre, and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider the request expeditiously in the context of timely commissioning of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant the work of which is all so held up due to acute water scarcity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Karnataka Govt. had proposed diversion of 526.10 ha. of forest land for rehabilitation of displaced persons of Kalinadi Hydroelectric Project and Kaiga in Uttar Kannada district The proposal was later withdrawn by the State Govenment. Govt. of Karnataka had on 3rd November, 1993 ordered release of 77711 acres of forest land for Kalinadi HE Project. The diversion of forest land will howeer, require clearance under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Further action is possible only after Govt. of Karnataka sends the proposal to Ministry of Environment & Forest.

Functioning of SEBs

2187. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA. Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have advised the State Electricity Boards to clean up their act so as to acquire credibility with foreign investors;

(b) if so, the details of such State Electricity Boards that are in arrears of pending bills; and

(c) the steps being taken to clear the pending bills of SEBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NADU):(a) To improve the finances of the State Electricity Boards and to reduce their losses. State Governments have been advised, from time to time to undertake measures such as rationalised tariff, regular payment of rural electrification subsidy, improvement in Plant Load Factor, reduction in T and D losses etc. The Conference of Power Ministers held on 8th and 9th January, 1993 also discussed ways and means to improve the performance of SEBs, both in physical and financial terms, and adopted an Action Plan which includes, inter-alia, liquidation of the arrears of subsidy in a phased manner, reduction in outstanding dues, tariff rationalisation, fixation of minimum agricultural tariff etc.

(b) A statement indicating the outstanding dues payable by SEBs and other power utilities to Central Sector Power Corporations as on 31st January, 1994 is enclosed. (See below).

(c) The steps being taken by the Government to clear the outstanding dues of SEBs include advice from the Ministry at various levels to the defaulting SEBs| State Governments to clear their outstanding dues; meetings with representatives of concerned State Governments and SEBs; vigorous revenue collection drives and, issuance of notice for shut off|restrict|reallocate power in case of default by SEBs wherever physically and technically feasible.